



Washington State Health Care Authority
Prescription Drug Program

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June 22nd, 2004

Dear Interested Party,

Because of the extreme national shortage of OTC omeprazole (Prilosec OTC®) (the current preferred drug in the Proton Pump Inhibitor class on the Washington state preferred drug list (PDL)) and information from the manufacturer that production of Prilosec OTC® will not be sufficient until late in 2004 the agency directors of DSHS Medical Assistance Administration (MAA), the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), and the Health Care Authority's Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) have added pantoprazole (Protonix®) to the PDL.

This decision was based on a review of the supplemental rebate offers submitted to MAA prior to the P&T Committee's December 17, 2003 recommendation. This decision is effective immediately for UMP. It will be effective July 1, 2004 for MAA and L&I and will continue in effect until the agency directors make any change following the P&T Committee's updated review of the Proton Pump Inhibitor Drug class scheduled for December 2004.

If you have other questions or comments regarding this announcement, please contact Erika Clayton at (206) 521-2027 or by email at pdp@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Duane Thurman
Senior Prescription Drug Program Manager